

Remarks

Claims 1-30 were previously presented. Claims 17-30 were withdrawn in a communication to the USPTO on May 24, 2005. Claims 31 and 32 were added in a response filed August 14, 2006. In the present response, Claim 1 has been amended and Claim 16 has been canceled. Accordingly, after entry of the response, Claims 1-15, 31, and 32 will be pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kurauchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,323,921), herein referred to as "Kurauchi".

Of the above indicated claims, Claim 1 is independent. Accordingly, once patentability of that is established, all claims depending therefrom are likewise allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended to generally include the subject matter as shown in Figure 14 and recited in Claim 16.

In this regard, Applicant submits that Kurauchi does not teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest, "A liquid crystal display apparatus, comprising:
a first panel including . . . a transparent spacer formed on the common electrode, the transparent spacer contacting with an end portion of the spacer" as recited in Claim 1.

As the subject matter of Claim 16 was rejected under §103 (see below), Applicant believes amended Claim 1 is now patentable over Kurauchi.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

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Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3, 5, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurauchi in view of Miyazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,451), herein referred to as "Miyazaki".

Claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurauchi in view of Miyazaki, as applied to Claims 3, 5, 7, and 9 above, and further in view of Yamada (U.S. Patent No. 6,140,988).

Claims 12, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurauchi in view of Miyazaki, as applied to Claims 3, 5, 7, and 9, and further in view of Yamada, as applied to Claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 15 above, and further in view of Iida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,801,797).

As indicated above, Claim 1 was amended to generally include the subject matter shown in Figure 14 and recited in Claim 16. Accordingly, as the Examiner's rejection of Claim 16 was limited to the Iida reference, Applicant's arguments are direct to overcoming the Iida reference in determining the patentability of Claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom.

The Examiner indicated that, "Iida discloses an LCD device having spacers made of transparent resin (col. 13, line 52)."

Although Iida may disclose a sealing member 27 and spherical spacers 28, Applicant respectfully submits that Iida does not disclose, teach, or otherwise suggest "a transparent spacer formed on the common electrode, the transparent spacer contacting with an end portion of the spacer" as recited in Claim 1.

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In this regard, "the transparent spacer 238 may uniformly maintain the cell gap between the first and second substrate 100 and 200 with the color filter spacer 140, thereby preventing variation of the cell gap of an LCD apparatus 400." (page 22 of Applicant's originally filed application)

Iida makes no mention or suggest of the sealing member 27 and spherical spacers 28 being formed on a common electrode, the transparent spacer contacting with an end portion of the color filter spacer as shown in Figure 14. Applicant respectfully submits that the specificity of Applicant's transparent spacer 238 position on the common electrode 220 and contact with the color filter spacer 140 can not be rendered obvious by the Iida reference that simply discloses a spacer 28 somewhere on a display apparatus.

For at least this reason, Applicant's independent Claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom are patentable.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

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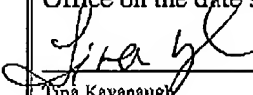
Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, it is thought that the application is now in condition for allowance, notice whereof is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at (949) 752-7040 is both welcomed and encouraged.

Certification of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.


Tina Kavanaugh**January 11, 2008**

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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